

America's young adults and teens are currently facing unemployment rates of 16 and 24 percent respectfully. The ramifications of these young Americans not being able to find work are troubling and far reaching.

We must do everything we can to make sure young Americans have the jobs they need to pay for higher education and to learn skills that will prepare them for careers and professions. If we do not create employment opportunities for all young Americans, we inhibit the ability and opportunity for them to move up the economic ladder, and to improve their conditions.

For this reason, I am introducing the "Youth Jobs Act" with Senator BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont.

This Act directs the U.S. Department of Labor to provide \$1.5 billion in grants for states to provide summer and year-round employment opportunities for low-income youth. States could then use these funds to identify employment opportunities in emerging occupations and in the public and nonprofit sector to meet their community's needs.

An additional \$1.5 billion would be distributed through competitive grants to states and local communities to provide on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs for low-income youth and disadvantaged young adults. The grant recipients would be strongly encouraged to develop partnerships with employers, community colleges, community organizations and join labor-management committees.

At minimum, every state would receive \$15 million to implement summer and year round job opportunities and training programs, with the remainder being targeted to areas of particularly high youth unemployment and poverty.

Ensuring there are adequate jobs for every American should be Congress' number one focus. I encourage my colleagues to support this measure to put America's youth to work.

FACT SHEET ON REP. CONYERS' YOUTH JOBS ACT

At a time when the youth unemployment rate is over 16 percent, and the teen unemployment rate is over 24 percent, we have got to do everything we can to make sure that young Americans have the jobs they need to pay for a college education and to move up the economic ladder.

The Youth Jobs Act that will be introduced in the Senate by Sen. Sanders will provide \$3 billion in immediate funding to employ hundreds of thousands of low-income youth and economically disadvantaged young adults in summer and year round jobs; and to provide young Americans with the job training and skills they need for the jobs of the future.

This legislation is modeled on the youth jobs and training programs included in President Obama's American Jobs Act.

The Youth Jobs Act would build on the success of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which created over 374,000 summer job opportunities during 2009 and 2010 to young Americans through \$1.2 billion for the Youth Jobs Workforce Investment Act program.

Under the Youth Jobs Act, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) would provide \$1.5 billion in grants to states to:

Provide summer and year round employment opportunities for low-income youth, with direct links to academic and occupational learning; and

Provide important services such as transportation or child care, necessary to enable young Americans to participate in job opportunities.

Each state that would like to participate in this program would have to submit a plan to DOL that must include:

Strategies and activities to provide summer employment opportunities and year-round employment opportunities for low-income youth, including links to educational activities;

Identifying employment opportunities in emerging or in-demand occupations;

Identifying employment opportunities in the public or nonprofit sector that meet community needs; and

An estimate of the number of youth expected to be placed in employment opportunities.

Under this legislation, DOL would also award \$1.5 billion in competitive grants to local areas to provide work-based training to low-income youth and disadvantaged young adults.

Through this bill, DOL will award grant applications to local areas that have the ability to:

Implement effective strategies and activities to provide unemployed, low-income youth and disadvantaged young adults with the skills needed for employment;

Provide opportunities for on-the-job training, and registered apprenticeship programs;

Provide connections to immediate work opportunities; paid internships; enrollment in community colleges; or basic education and training for low-income young adults; and

Develop partnerships with employers and employer associations, community colleges, and other postsecondary education institutions; community-based organizations; joint labor-management committees; and work-related intermediaries.

All states would receive a minimum of \$15 million to implement summer and year round job opportunities and job-training programs under this bill.

The remainder of the funding would be targeted to areas of high youth unemployment and poverty.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday, June 13th, I was not recorded on one rollcall vote. I would like to state for the record that I would have voted "nay" on rollcall Vote number 221: On Agreeing to the Resolution on H. Res. 260—Providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

REMEMBERING GEORGIA STATE SENATOR NATHAN DEAN

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of State Senator Nathan Dean, and thank him for his dedicated service to Georgia and his community.

Last Saturday our state lost one of the finest public officials it has ever seen, as Dean passed away at the age of 79.

Senator Dean was born in the town of Rockmart, which he called home throughout his entire life. After graduating from Rockmart High School in 1952, he attended Shorter College and then joined the U.S. Army. Thereafter, he answered the call to public service. Before his election to the Georgia Senate in 1974, Dean served for a total of 16 years on the Rockwall City Council and in the Georgia House of Representatives.

During his tenure in the State Legislature, he was named "Man of the Year for Civic Affairs" and "Senator of the Year." In addition to his responsibilities as a Senator, he was active in community organizations such as Piedmont Avenue Baptist Church of Rockmart; Rockmart-Aragon Little League; Rockmart, Cedartown, and Cartersville Chambers of Commerce; Polk and Bartow County Farm Bureaus; the Masons, Shriners, and Odd Fellows; the Northwest Council for Boy Scouts; Cedartown, Haralson, and Bartow County Historical societies; and mental disability programs.

I had the pleasure of working with Senator Dean on many occasions during my own time in the Georgia Senate, and came to know him as a very hardworking and effective advocate. Nathan was a role model for all public officials: he truly loved the people of his district and Georgia, and worked tirelessly to represent his constituents to the best of his ability.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Senator Dean's wife Ann; his two sons and daughters-in-law, Aland and Durand Dean and Scot and Keri Dean; his grandchildren Seven, Ana Scott, and Mason; his brother, four sisters; and his many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews during these most difficult of times. Although we are now without this honorable man, husband, and citizen, we can take comfort in knowing that he made Georgia a better place to live.

CENTRALIA SENTINEL SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the sesquicentennial of the Centralia Sentinel. For 150 years, the newspaper has chronicled events large and small in and around the southern Illinois town of Centralia. It holds a special place in my heart, as the hometown paper of my namesake and grandfather, John Shimkus. His clothing store advertised for years in the Sentinel.

History tells us that the regional term "Little Egypt" arose from the poor harvest of the 1830s. Citizens of the North had to travel south to buy grain, reminiscent of the Biblical story of Joseph being brought "down to Egypt." A visitor walking into the reception area of the Sentinel is greeted with hieroglyphics on the wall, evoking images of an Egyptian tomb. However, those who have worked there know that the Sentinel is anything but tomb-like, frequently noting the family atmosphere, something long promoted by the newspaper's leadership.